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CBS jury is told CIA 'rebuked' analyst for 'half-cocked' memo

FROM COMBINED DISPATCHES

NEW YORK — A former deputy CIA director testified yesterday in Gen. William C. Westmoreland's libel suit against CBS that an analyst, who later became a consultant for the network, was once rebuked for sending a "half-cocked" memo opposing official enemy strength estimates in Vietnam.

A Former CIA analyst Sam Adams was "prone to jump to conclusions and was very intolerant of people who did not share the conclusions to which he jumped," said George A. Carver Jr., his former boss.

A Gen. Westmoreland is suing for \$120 million over a CBS documentary based on Mr. Adams's charges that military intelligence officials falsified intelligence reports during the Vietnam War. Mr. Adams, a paid consultant for the CBS Reports documentary, CBS producer George Crile and correspondent Mike Wallace are codefendants in the suit.

CIA troop estimates of 500,000 enemy amassed on the eve of the 1968 Tet offensive were the basis for the documentary's troop strength conclusions, and it was expected CIA testimony would contradict Army figures of 280,000 enemy.

Mr. Carver, the top CIA official for Vietnamese affairs, recalled his "irritation" when Mr. Adams sent a memo under Mr. Carver's name that took Mr. Adams's side in a dispute with Gen. Westmoreland's intelligence experts.

"Mr. Adams was going off half-cocked, as he sometimes was wont to do," Mr. Carver said, recalling that he rebuked Mr. Adams for sending the memo without his approval.

The memo Mr. Adams sent to the CIA station in Saigon said that Viet Cong civilian self-defense forces should be included in the tally of enemy troops because they were an important component of the opposition. Military analysts opposed Mr. Adams, maintaining these troops were not a serious threat.

Mr. Carver said he objected to the "stridency of tone" in the memo, which contained judgments he did not support.

But, Mr. Carver said, "A good deal of [Mr. Adams's] energy was not tempered with good judgment. . . . He was very prone to jump to conclusions and was not tolerant of people who disagreed with him."

He said Gen. Westmoreland's command in South Vietnam never withheld its intelligence information from other government agencies, despite disagreement with the CIA.

A Gen. Westmoreland's lawyer, Dan M. Burt, introduced into evidence a memo issued by the CIA's second-in-command in Vietnam, George Allen, that said the self-defense forces were largely unarmed.

Mr. Allen, a scheduled witness for CBS, was quoted in the documentary as saying the militia was a fundamental part of the enemy force and responsible for "a large proportion" of U.S. casualties.